



GO GREEN! NEWSLETTER

February 2010



Staying Warm, Go Green! Style

Tip #1: Let the sun do its job! Open your drapes and blinds on sunny days to help heat your home. After the sun disappears, make sure to close them back up, insulating your home at night.

Tip #2: We all hate feeling that wintery chill while relaxing after a long day! Rearrange your furniture so that couches and beds are away from windows. This will keep you warmer without the need to consistently crank up the thermostat!

Tip #3: Everyone loves a warm, crackling fire to cozy up next to. But be absolutely sure the damper is closed when not in use; chimneys love pulling warm air up and out of your home, stealing your warmth and your hard-earned money!

Love Your Earth This Valentine's Day

1) Imported Champagne may taste great, but buying from a local vineyard instead will save the earth plenty of air pollutants needed to get the wine from Europe to Mid-Michigan (while also keeping your wallet fuller!)

2) You don't have to feel guilty about splurging this Valentine's Day! Fair trade organic chocolate will definitely satisfy your sweet tooth, while also supporting sustainable agriculture and healthy communities.

3) Ensure your Valentine's card is made from recycled products! For a more person touch, make your own or send an E-Card! There's nothing more romantic than helping save the planet.

Go Green! In Your Own Home

Getting your home analyzed by a professional can give you the right ideas and know-how to save energy *and* save money this winter season. Energy assessments by Capital Area Community Services are available for free if your household meets the annual income requirements, <http://www.mason.mi.us/2009PDF/060109-CACS-Weatherization.pdf>.

If your home does not meet these requirements, Michigan Energy Options out of East Lansing also provides energy assessments, <http://www.urbanoptions.org/programs/residentialenergy>.



How To Eat Like a Localvore

Eating locally reduces your carbon footprint, as energy costs for food transportation is less than if your food comes from out of state (or even abroad). Eating fresh produce from places such as the Lansing City Market or the MSU Student Organic Farm also benefits your physical health, because food is typically less processed and isn't filled with preservatives. Check out local options at <http://www.localharvest.org/search.jsp?map=1&lat=42.7334&lon=-84.5525&scale=1.3&ty=&nm=&zip=48901>

Lansing To Become More Pedestrian- Friendly



Eat 'Green' During the White Season

Believe it or not, eating fresh, green vegetables is still an option during the harsh winter months. Although most picking is done for the year, crops such as lettuce, broccoli, kale and chard are still available locally.

Purchasing pumpkins and winter squash is also making a good, eco-conscious decision, as well as indulging in the plethora of apples still available to Michiganders.



Energy Efficient Homes in Ingham County

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing will give a presentation on the County's Land Bank on Thursday, February 18th, from 6:00-8:00pm at Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster, Lansing.

He'll discuss how the Land Bank impacts sprawl development and is helping to lower the county's global warming footprint with energy efficient homes!

The goal of the Mayor's Walking and Biking Task-force is to make Lansing a more accommodating place for pedestrians and bikers – a challenging task for a city whose infrastructure is based off the automobile.

According to U.S. Census Data, only one in 40 Lansing residents walk to work (compared to about one in five in East Lansing).

The Lansing Walking & Bicycling Task Force - a coalition of public officials, nonprofits and city residents – hopes to double the number of walking trips by residents within the city in five years.

Making Lansing friendlier to people who aren't in cars is more than just good environmental policy; it promotes public health and safety while also saving money for the city and residents alike.

The city hopes to have a draft of a comprehensive plan for non-motorized travel throughout Lansing this month. The plan will focus on how to tweak the city's existing infrastructure to make bike and pedestrian travel easier and safer.

Lansing Students Celebrate Green Week



The Go Green! Initiative would like to congratulate the students at Woodcreek Elementary School in Lansing for their outstanding achievements in recycling and environmental protection.

As part of National Green Week, students continued participation in the school-wide DEAR (Drop Everything And Recycle) program, directed by Woodcreek's Diane Graham. Students recycle everything they can; from plastic bags and newspapers, to sneakers and ink-cartridges.

Graham selected five students to become "The Green Team" and lead others in environmental

education and activism.

Every Friday, the City of Lansing drops by the school, where others in the community can also bring items to recycle, and picks up the dozens of bins of recyclables.

The "Green Team" is in charge of organizing the DEAR program, as well as checking bins for contamination and holding meetings to identify new ideas for the program. To the "Green Team", if it can be recycled, there's no way it'll ever see a landfill!

To all the K-5 students at Woodcreek, recycling isn't just for Green Week, it's a way of life!



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